

# ARTICLES TO BE ENQVIRED OF BY THE CHVRCH-

wardens and Sworne-men within the

Arch-Deaconrie of *Worcester*, in the Visita-

tion of the Worshipfull Mr. *Edward*  
*Thornburgh*, Arch-Deacon of  
*Worcester*.

*Anno Domini. 1634*



---

LONDON,  
Printed for IOHN GRISMOND.

TO BE ENOVLRED  
ARTICLES





*Note of Directions.*

1. **T**He old Church-vvarden and Side-men of euery Parish Church and Chappell are to ioyne together in appearance, & presentment vpon the Articles formerly deliuered in this behalfe, and the Minister also may ioyne in presentment with them if hee will, or otherwise the Minister may present alone. And the newv elected Church-vvarden and Side-men are to appeare, and to take their oaths, and to exhibit their presentments afterwards when they shall be assigned, as by the 118 and 119 Canons is required. The presentments are to be plainly and particularly set downe to answer euery part and branch of euery seuerall Article following, and to be subscribed and testified vnder the hands and markes of all and singular the Presenters.

2 The Proprietaries, Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and Sequestrators of Ecclesiasticall Benefices, and their respectiue Farmers, and all publike Lecturers, Schoolemasters, Vthers, and Vnder-Schoolemasters, &c. within euery Parish, are also to appeare, and to exhibite their Letters of Orders, Institutions, and Inductions, and all other their Dispensations, Licenses, and faculties vvhatsoever, not being formerly exhibited in the Visitation of the moderne Arch-Deacon nowv visiting. And they are also to make reall payment of all such procurations and Synodalls, and other duties as are respectfully due and payable by euery of them seuerally in this Visitation.



## THE TENOUR OF THE

Oath to be ministred to all and euery  
the Church-wardens and Sidemen,  
or Assistants in the said  
Visitation.

**Y**ou and euery of you shall sweare by almighty  
God, that all fauour, feare, & affection, and  
all other sinister corruption whatsoeuer set aside,  
vpon due consideration of these Articles giuen you  
in charge, you will make a true, plaine, perfect, and  
particular answer and presentment in writing to  
the same articles, and to euery braunch and part  
thereof, presenting all and euery offenders and of-  
fences therein mentioned so as may stand with the  
glory of God, the discharge of your consciences, and  
the iurisdiction of the ecclesiasticall Court: where-  
in you shall deale sincerely, faithfully, & vprightly  
as before God. So helpe you God in Christ Iesus.

## Concerning Church and Church-yard.

**W**hether is your Church and Chancell in all respects well and sufficiently repaired, and kept sweete and cleane, if not, in whose defaulte haue you therein the ten Commandments, the Articles of the beliefe, and o her godly sentences fairely written: the Bible of the largest volume, the Bookes of Common prayer, the two volumes of Homilies, the booke entituled God and the King, and all other bookes requisite: a seemely Pulpit, a convenient seat for the Minister at Prayers, a large and comely Surplesse, whole and vntozone:

2 Haue you in your Church a strong chest for almes, with a hole in the top, and three lockes and keyes thereto: Is the money therein put, imployed to the vse of the poore?

3 Haue you a Register of Christnings, Weddings, and Burials, in a booke of parchement duely kept in a chest with three lockes and keyes?

4 Hath any man pulled downe, or vncouered, or suffered to decay any Parsonage or Vicarage houses, or any Church, Chancell, Chappell, Rectory, or Church-houses in part or in all, or imployed them, or any of them to any prophane vses?

5 Whether is your Parsonage, Vicarage, or Ministers house, or any part thereof conuerthed, made, used, or imployed, to or for any common passage, entry, thorough-fare, or common way for people, or Cattell usually to passe thorough, forth of the Church-yard into or vnto any Alehouse, Tippling, or Mithnalling house, common Inne, or wine Lanerne, and by whom, and by whose sufferance and permission, and how long hath the same ben so made, enioyned, used, imployed, or rather misused and misimployed as aforesaid?

6 Whether are the Dales, fences, enclosures, and markes of ancient Bounds and Limits of your Parsonage, Vicarage, or Ministers houses, or of the Courts, entries, gardens, backesides, or other appurtenances belonging to the same, or any part thereof remooued, or altered, or taken away from their ancient places, bounds, and limits thereof, and layd and used to and with any mithnalling house, common Inne, or wine Lanerne, and by whom, when, and by whose sufferance, & how long time hath the same bene so done and suffered? And whether by the continuance of the vse of the premises, as aforesaid, may not the same in short time growe out of knowledge, and by some prescription to become preiudiciall to the Church or succeeding Incumbent thereof?

## Articles.

7 Are your Bells, Belropes, and Clocke in good repaire, and well ordered? Is your Churchyard well fenced, and decently kept? Is it not pꝛophaned with fighting, bꝛabbling, chiding, gaming, danceing, playing, or with unlawfull Cattell, or otherwise; and how, and by whom, and by whose default?

Ministers, and Curates.

8 Doeth your Minister reade or say the whole diuine Service euery Sunday and Holyday, and administer the holy Sacraments according to the Booke of Common Prayer? Is your Minister a licensed Preacher, doth he diligently pꝛeach sound doctrine, and foꝛ matters of gouernment seriously teach and maintaine the Kings supremacy vnder God within his Maiesties dominions ouer all persons, and in all causes as well Ecclesiasticall as Ciuill, and the abolishing of all foꝛraigne power?

9 Hath your Minister moꝛe Benefices than one; if two, or moꝛe, doth he reside vpon one of them himselſe, and maintaine a licensed Preacher on the other? If he haue but one, is he resident and dwelling there, vpon, is he painefull in his vocation, of sober and good conuersation, and giuen to hospitality?

10 Doth your Minister vse decency of Apparel as well in the Church as elswhere, and in the time of diuine Prayers, and administration of the Sacraments, doth he vse to weare the Surplesse? and if he be a Graduate, such a hood as is agreeable to his calling?

11 Is your Minister a peace-maker, and no solver of discord, or is he suspected, famed, or noted of any notorious crime, or giueth he any ill example, in his carriage or demeanour.

12 Doth any pꝛeach in your Parish, that refuseth to confoꝛme himselſe to the lawes, ordinaunces, and rites of the Church of England?

13 Hath your Minister a Curate, and how is he licensed? doth he serue two Cures, and doth he giue notice of the fasting dayes and Holy dayes commanded and allowed? and amongst others of the fifth of November?

14 If your Minister bee not a Preacher allotted, doeth hee procure monethly Sermons? and when there is no Sermon, doth he reade an Homily, doth he take vpon him to expound any text of Scriptures?

15 What Preachers haue come from any other place, and pꝛeach in your Parish? haue you their names written in a booke kept foꝛ that purpose? hath such a Preacher subscribed his name thereto, and set downe the day when he pꝛeacheth, and by whom licensed?

16 Hath your Minister obtayn'd his Benefice by any Symoniacall compact, either directly, or indirectly.

17 Hath

## Articles.

17 Hath any of your Parish, or of any other Parish, vaneuerently vsed your Minister, layd violent hands on him, or disgraced his office and function by word, or deed?

### Diuine Seruice.

18 Is diuine Seruice in due time on Sundayes, Holy dayes and their Eues, and at other times appoynted, reuerently said or sung in your Church or Chappell, with the Letany on Wednesdayes and Frydayes, and all other rites and ceremonies, according to the prescript forme of common Prayer in the Communion Booke?

19 Whether doth any, not being licensed (or any not ordered, at least for a Deacon) say common Prayer openly in your Church or Chappell?

20 Doe any men, young or old, vse to weare their hats in the Church or Chappell in time of diuine Seruice, or are there any that beaue themselves disorderly in the Church, Chappell, or Churchyard, or any disturbers of diuine Seruice or Sermons?

21 Whether doe any Winalers (or others in your Parish) suffer any drinking or gaming in their houses on Sundayes or Holy dayes, especially in time of diuine Seruice or Sermons?

22 Whether any in your Parish vpon Sabbath dayes or Holy dayes, doe vse their trade, or doe any other woрке or labour, as Baking, Baking, Washing, Bayning, or such like, or doe any Percers Dyapers, Shoemakers, Butchers, or others whatsoeuer open their Shops for sale of Wares vpon those dayes, or doe hedge, ditch, dig, carry, or draw lurdens by themselves, their seruants, boyes, or other catteill whatsoeuer on such dayes: And is the fifth day of November obserued, according as is ordained in that behalfe?

### The holy Communion.

23 Haue you a decent Communion Table on a frame, with a samely Carpet, and a cloth of Linnen, a Communion cup and cover of silver, a faire flagon of Dewter, or purer mettall for the Wine, a plate for the Bread, and a Towell to lay ouer it?

24 Whether is there any in your Parish, which being full sixteen years of age and vpyward, hath not receiued the holy Communion thre severall times in the yeare past, at least in his or her Parish Church, whereof Easter to be one of the thre times?

25 Doth your Minister instruct, or examine his Parishioners concerning the Sacraments at convenient times befoze he administer the Communion: And doeth hee admit any thereto, that cannot say at least the Lords Prayer, the Articles of the Christian faith, and the ten Commandments?

## Articles.

26 Is your Communion ministred with Bread and Wine, consecrated in such order, as in the Booke of common Prayer is appointed? And doth your Minister deliuer both kindes to euery seuerall Communicant, with the blessing prescribed in the booke of common Prayer?

27 Doth any receiue the holy Communion either sitting, standing, or otherwise then kneeling, as is prescribed in the booke of common Prayer? Or doe any refuse to receiue the same kneeling? and doth your Minister admit any to receiue the Communion otherwise then kneeling?

28 Doth your Minister admit any notorious Offenders, or any Schismatics to the holy Communion, befoze due penance enioyned by the Ordinary be duly perfozmed by them, or doth he admit any notoriously known to be out of charity, or any that hath done any open wrong to his neighbour, befoze reconciliation made to the party wronged?

29 Whether doth your Minister appoint and obserue so many Communions euery yeare, as that the Parishioners may conveniently receiue all of them thre seuerall times in the yeare. And doth he use to giue publicke notice thereof in the Church, the Sabbath day next going befoze euery such Communion, that the Parishioners may prepare themselves to be partakers thereof?

## Baptisme.

30 Haue you in your Church a conuenient ffont of stone, well kept, and couered, standing in the ancient place? Doth your Minister baptize therein, or in a Basen, or other thing, or with any other ceremonies than such as are allowed in the Booke of common Prayer? or doth he omit, neglect, or not vse all the ceremonies therein prescribed, and doth he vse the signe of the Crosse in Baptisme?

31 Doth your Minister refuse to baptize any children of Christian parents, that are brought to the Church?

32 Are parents vied to be present at the baptizing of their children: or be any admitted to be Godfathers or Godmothers, that haue not receiued the holy Communion? or do any parents refuse to haue their children signed with the signe of the Crosse in Baptisme?

33 Haue any children that were borne in your parish, been carried out of the parish to bee baptized elswhere? or haue any not been baptized at all, or in places, or by parties unknowne?

34 Whether hath your Minister refused, deferred, or delayed to come vnto and to christen any child being in weaknesse, or in danger of death, being thereunto required, by reason wherof such a child hath (through his negligence, or by his default) dyed unbaptized?

## Catechisme.

## Articles.

### Catechisme.

35 Hath your Minister, or his Curate, duely catechize according to the late Canons euery Sunday, such childzen and seruants of both sexes, as are of conuenient age, or at least so many of them by course, as the time will serue ?

36 Doe Parents and Householders bzing, or send their childzen and seruants to the Church euery Sunday duely to be catechized, according as the late Canons require, and who are negligent therein ?

### Matrimonie.

37 Whether is Matrimonie solemnized in your Church or Chappel, according to the booke of common Prayer ?

38 Haue you in your Church a Table of the degrees of Parriage: are any married within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity therein forbidden ? or doe any childzen vnder the age of twenty one yeates contract themselfes or marry without consent of their parents, or Guardians ?

39 Haue any bene married without the Banes thrice asked in the Church thre severall Sundayes, or Holy dayes (vlesse by Licence of the Ordinary granted vnder Seale) or at any time of the day, than betwixt the houres of eight and twelue in the forenoone, or at any times prohibited that is to say, from Advent Sunday to the Octaves of Epiphany, from Septuagesima Sunday to the Octaves of Easter; from Rogation Sunday to Trinity Sunday ?

40 Haue any that dwell in your Parish, bene married in any other Parish, or any of another Parish, bene married in your Parish ? or haue any bene married priuately out of the Church, or face of the Congregation, when, where, by whom, and who were present at such marriages ?

41 Haue any women, not well knowne to be married, ben deliuered of any Child in your Parish and in whose house ? or hath any woman in your Parish bene carnally knowne, or begotten with child before marriage, and by whom ?

42 Haue any forsaken their Wives or husbands, and married others: Haue any married againe after they haue bene diuorced ? Or doe any which haue bene diuorced keep company still together ?

43 Doe any married couples liue asunder and not together, and doe either of them keepe in their house, or secretly resort to any other, to the raising of suspicion or fame of incontinency ?

44 Hath any in your Parish, for money or reward, married any woman that committed fornication or adultery with another man ? Or hath any vnmarried Woman, begotten with Child, gone out of your Parish before shee hath done penance entoynd by the Ordinary, where

## Articles.

was she, or is she receiued or harboured, at whose charge, and who conueyed her away?

### Visitation of the sicke.

45 Doth your Minister or Curate visite the sicke, doth hee admonish them to repentance, comfort the Penitent, and exhort them to charitable almes deedes?

### Buriall of the Dead.

46 Are your dead buried according to the forme of Buriall set downe in the Booke of Common Prayer; or haue any been buried secretly, or in the night, who, and by whom, and who were present thereat?

47 Doe the Executors, or Administrators, or other friends of them that are buried in Church or Chancell, repaire againe the Pancement, and giue any thing to the Church, or in whose default is the same so neglected and not repayed?

### Churching of women.

48 Doth any woman refuse to giue God thanks openly in the Church or (as we tearme it) to be churched at convenient times after Childbirth, or doth any Minister refuse to church them, or church them any otherwise than is prescribed in the Booke of Common prayer?

49 Hath any woman unlawfully begotten with child binadmitted to publique thanksgiving in the Church, befoze shee hath performed such penance as was enioyned her by the Ordinary or at least been churched in a white kcepe, and confessed her fault penitently befoze sufficient witnesses, and undertaken to stand to the censure of her Ordinary for her said offence?

### Parish Clarkes.

50 Haue you a Parish Clarke chosen by the Minister, is he of honest conuerſation, hath hee competent skill in reading, writing, and singing: And doth any with-hold or detain his Wages or dueties from him?

### Schoolemaſters.

51 Haue you any School-house, and how is it repayed: And haue you any Schoolemaſter in your Parish that teacheth publickely, or priuately, is he lawfully licensed? Doth he come duely to the Church, and receiue the holy Communion? Doth hee instruct his Schollers in the Catechiſme alſo, and in the booke entituled God and the King? Cauſeth he them to repayze to diuine prayers in the Church, & to hear and note Sermons? Teacheth he any other Grammar than that which is allowed?

52 Is any Schoolemaſter knowne, or ſuſpected, publickely, or priuately, to reade to his Schollers, or ſuffer them to reade any booke that may confirme them in Popery, ſuperſtition, or diſobedience to the Kings Maieſtie,

## Articles.

pairty, or to his lawes ecclesiasticall or ciuill, and how many, either men or women, doe teach children in your Parish, and what be their names?

Schismatics and Recusants of all sorts.

53 Doe you know any that teach or maintaine any doctrine contrary to the Articles agreed vpon in the Conuocation Anno Dom 1562.

54 Doth any preach, minister the Communion, baptize children, or church women in priuate houses, or other where than in the Church, except it be in cases of necessity?

55 Know you any that absent themselves from the Church negligent, or wilfully how long haue they so done? And of them that are absent without a sufficient & lawfull cause, is the forfeiture of six d. taken every Sunday, & conuerted to the vse of the poore, according to the statute Eliz. 1

56 In your Parish where there is a Preacher, doe any vse to absent themselves from his Sermon, and resort to any other?

57 Know you any that forbear to participate with the Church of England in prayer, or Sacraments, either denying the Church to be Apostolicall or condemning the ceremonies thereof as superstitious?

58 Where you in your Parish any Popish Recusants, any halfe Papists that come to the Church, and receiue not the Communion, any Church, Papists that come and receiue themselves, but either perswade others, or maintaine their wiues, children, family, or friends not to come?

59 Doth any Seminary Priest or Iesuite resort to any place within this Diocese or suspect you any such? Or doe you know any that resort to any Popish Priest or Iesuite?

60 Know you any that by writing talke, or argument, impugne the Kings Supremacy, or any that haue kept in their custody, that sell, disperse, carry, or deliuer vnto others any vnlawfull Bookes against the Religion and gouernement established, or in defence of any forraigne power, or domesticall confidoy?

Excommunicated persons.

61 Are all excommunicated persons kept out of the Church from diuine prayers, and receiuing of the holy Communion, vntill they be lawfully absolved: And are there any in your Parish which haue stood excommunicated forty dayes and vponwards, are such persons as stand excommunicated, once in euery sermon denounced in your Church in time of diuine seruice vpon some Sunday?

62 Hath any excommunicated person not absolved (at least in his extremity) not giuing any testimony of his repentance before his departure, bene buried in christian buryall, who buried him, her, or them, where, and when, and who were present at such burials?

## Articles.

63 Doe any retain or keep in their house, or service, any person benighted, excommunicate, or doe any way encourage them therein, or converse with them in buying, selling, eating, drinking, or otherwise keep company with them in any sort?

Wills, Testaments, and Administrations.

64 Doe any in your Parish administer the goods of the dead, or any way intermeddle therewith, without lawfull authority committed unto them under the Ordinaries seale?

65 Know you any in your Parish that suppress the last Will of the Dead, or any that forge or alter any Wills, or any Executors that fulfill not the Testators will; or any that detaine Legacies given to any charitable uses?

Seuerall Articles.

66 Doe any in your Parish prophane the Sabbath dayes: or not duly obserue the Holy dayes appoynted? Are Ember fasts orderly obserued at the foure times of the yeare appoynted?

67 Are the dayes and orders of Perambulation duely obserued in the Rogation weeke, if not, in whose default?

68 Are the Canons, constitutions, and orders made & agreed vpon in the Conuocation house Anno Dom. 1603. read ouer once every yeare in your Church vpon Sundays or Holy dayes according to his Maiesties Commandement in that behalfe?

69 Doth your Minister yearely present, and giue vp in writing to the Ordinary the names of all Recusants, & halfe Recusants men & women as well sojourners as Parishioners, & commons guests in your Parish above the age of thirtene, according to the 114 Canon or not?

70 Doe any in your Parish take vpon them to practise Physicke, or Chirurgery, not being lawfully licensed?

71 Are any in your Parish (or which were of your Parish & are now departed) knowne, suspected, famed, or reported to haue offended in fornication, Adultery, Incest, witchcraft, Sorcery, Charming, Cury, Swearing, Drunkenness, common flandering, sowing of discord, bawling, scolding, or any other uncleanness of life or bad manners?

72 Are any householders in your Parish (in whose house there is any one that can read) which haue not the booke intituled God and the King, and who be they that want the same?

73 Haue any Apparators, or others, taken any reward to compound, or conceale any offence presentable, or punishable in the Ecclesiasticall Court, let this be manifested, and information and presentment made for euery offence accordingly?

## Articles.

74 **W**hen shal further present whether any in your parish vpon Sundae 3 or Holy dayes, doe vse any dancing, plaies, or other sports or pastimes whatsoeuer, befoze all Service on those dayes be fully ended: And are the same bled by any of another parish, or any which haue not the same daye here at diuine Prayers in their owne parish Church, who be they, which haue offended in any of the premises:

Church-wardens, and Silemen.

75 **A**re your Churchwardens & Sildemen chosen yearly in the Easter weeke, according to the Canons: And doe the Churchwardens yearly, truly make and deliuer vp in wryting, their account of all their receits, & disbursements whatsoeuer by them receiued and laid out for the parish, & of all the Church goods, books, and other things, as the Canons requirer:

76 **D**oe your Churchwardens themselves come duly to the Church to diuine prayers and Sermons, and do they they best endeauors, especially vpon Sunraies and Holy daies, to cause all parishioners to do the like:

77 **W**hether is there a transcript or copy of the Register booke of the Church, of Chyldrens weddinges, and burials, yearly exhibited and deliuered by into the Registry of the Ordinary, or not:

78 **W**hether is there a sufficient teriar of the glebe land and other rights belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, truly taken and exhibited into the Registers office, as by law it ought:

79 **H**aue the late Churchwardens concealed any crime, offence, or disorder in theyr times, and not presented the same; what be the matters so concealed: Do they any trouble, molest, bere, or abuse, in words or otherwise, the Ministers, Churchwardens, or Sildemen, for doing their Office according to their Oath and Duety: and who bee they that so doe: And haue the Churchwardens continued in that office about one yeare, without a new election:

80 **W**hether any Churchwardens, Rectors, or Sildemen of any parish haue bin called and enforced to present any faults committed in their parishes, otherwise than at the Visitations, or time, or times limited in the 116 Canon:

Articles concerning the orders and iniunctions  
lately inioyned by h<sup>s</sup> Maiesty.

81 **H**aue you any Lecturer or preaching Minister in your parish, doth he preach in the afternoone on Sabbath dayes, and doth he then vse a catechistricall forme, by question and Answer:

82 **W**hether doth your Lecturer or preaching minister in your parish befoze his Sermon, reade diuine prayers in a Surplice, and if hee bee a Graduate, in a hood answerable to his degree, and doeth hee preach in a gowne, and not in a cloke:

83 **H**aue:

# Articles.

83 Have you any in your Parish, either recusants or others, which refuse, or doe not come to divine prayers, Lectures, Sermons, and other things in your Church, or doe negligently absent themselves, and not frequent the same, or any of them?

84 Whether is there any in your Parish, which keepeth any private Chaplaine in his house, and who by name?

85 Have you advisedly and diligently perused, read, or heard others reade and peruse this booke of Articles, and every particular Article and branch thereof, and have you framed your answers or presentments to the same accordingly?

86 Generally, whether doe you know any of the Canons broken, or any other Ecclesiasticall matter worthy to be presented, or not, and if you doe, you shall truly present the same (by the Oath you have taken) as well now as hereafter, when it shall come to your knowledge?

87 *habeo prope me dicitur de huiusmodi  
in quibusdam in quibusdam in quibusdam  
in quibusdam in quibusdam in quibusdam  
in quibusdam in quibusdam in quibusdam  
in quibusdam in quibusdam in quibusdam*

FINIS.